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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/698,378	10/27/2000	William Kopaciewicz	550P002C3	6511

7590 04/15/2004

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EXAMINER

FORTUNA, ANA M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1723

DATE MAILED: 04/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AS

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/698,378

Applicant(s)

KOPACIEWICZ ET AL.

Examiner

Ana M Fortuna

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/19/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 4-6, 11, 14, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by White (5,156,811). White discloses the housing provided with the tri-dimensional structure comprising a plurality of sorptive particles, e.g. cellulose gum (column 4, lines 33-37, column 6, lines 10-33) in the porous polymer matrix, e.g. within the pores, of the hydrophobic porous material (column 3, lines 18-30). the structure is provided within the housing is fixed to the walls of the inner wall of the housing by friction. The term "adhered" is not mentioned in the reference, however, it is inherent of the sealing attachment between the structure (8) and the wall (12) of the housing (Fig. 1). As to claims 4, 5, 6, and 14, 15, the limitations are disclosed by White (column 3, lines 20-27, and 53-67).

3. Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 11, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fuller (3,878,092). Fuller discloses a housing or chromatography column defining a volume and having a three-dimensional structure comprising sorptive particles entrapped in a porous polymer matrix, the matrix is adhered and retained in said housing interior wall (Figures 3 and 4, elements 20, 24, 23, 30, column 2, lines 36-54, and 65-68, column 3, lines 1-21, column 7, lines 25-68, column 6, lines 29-31). The

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polymer material is disclosed as porous (column 5, lines 1-4). The structure is disclosed as suitable for treating both liquids and gases (column 2, lines 63-65). As to claim 7, polymerized styrene is disclosed (column 4, lines 45-51). As to claim 10, silica is disclosed (column 9, lines 43-45). Claims 11 and 14, correspond to claims 1 and 4 discussed above.

Double Patenting

4 The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

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5.. Claims 1-16 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-10 and 11-20 of U. S. Patent No. 6,048,457, further in view of Fuller (3,878,092). Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claims in the present invention are directed to the housing provided with the three-dimensional structure comprising a plurality of sorptive particles entrapped in a porous polymer matrix. The housing being a pipette, and having the spect ratio as in claims 3 and 5 of the present invention are included in claims 1, and 4 of the claims in the patent; additional limitations are also covered by the limitations of the claims in the patent. The terms adhered or self-retained is not part of the group of claims in the patent above. Reference to Fuller teaches sealing the or chemically adhering the three-dimensional structure to the inner wall of the housing by chemical means (column 2, lines 44-52, column 3, lines 3-20). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to .to use chemical have a bound sorptive with a polymer matrix and further adhered the resulting matrix to the inner wall of a housing e.g. by chemical means as suggested by Fuller.

6. Claims 1-4, 7-14, and 16 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-11, 13-22 of U.S. Patent No. 6,200,474 B1, and further in view of Fuller (3,878,092). The patent claims do not include the term self-retained, or adhered to the housing. Reference to Fuller teaches sealing the or chemically adhering the three-dimensional structure to the inner wall of the housing by chemical means (column 2, lines 44-52, column 3, lines 3-20). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to .to use chemical have a bound sorptive with a polymer matrix and further adhered the resulting matrix to the inner wall of a housing e.g. by chemical means as suggested by Fuller.

Conclusion

1. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ana M Fortuna whose telephone number is (703) 308-3857. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda L. Walker can be reached on (703) 308-0457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.



Ana M Fortuna
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1723

AMF